Hornaday posts wire-to-wire Saugus feature win

Palmdale man claims Southwest Tour race

By LEE BARNATHAN
Signal staff writer

SAUGUS — Ron Hornaday of Palmdale clearly was the favorite among the season high crowd of 6,443 at Saugus Speedway.

He had the "Ron Hornaday Fan Club" at the races Saturday night, and the faithful was rewarded when he won the Miller Genuine Draft 100, the NASCAR Southwest Tour's featured event, which rolled through Saugus for the first time this season.

Hornaday started at the outside of row one and immediately took the lead from pole-sitter Brett Bell. He led a train of cars throughout the race, but he never let go in capturing the $3,000 prize and moving up in the point standings.

With the win, Hornaday, who came in third in the standings, closed in on points leader Rick Carelli of Denver, who had won the last three Southwest mains.

Carelli, who started 14th but moved up to ninth by the halfway point and was seventh in the later laps, got some help on lap 82 that might have helped him keep his points lead.

Newhall resident Bob Lyon, one of the train of cars Hornaday was leading, crashed into the wall on the back straightaway and took Doug George with him. That allowed Carelli to move up to fifth, where he finished. Bell earned second.

In the Pro-Stock oval main, it was no wonder Terry Custer was so excited after winning.

It was his first victory since he won a Hobby Stock Main in 1988, so it was understandable that the 26-year-old from Northridge was the picture of jubilation after the race.

Custer won with some fancy driving on lap 21.

Going into turn three, Custer challenged leader Rick Crow of Canyon Country by pushing his way inside and forcing Crow away. Crow was unable to control his car on the bumps, so he let Custer pass, and Custer cruised to the win over the last four laps.

"I saw him coming and I figured I'd let him go," he said. "No sense in messing with someone else's night. I'm happy with a good second."

Gerrit Cromsigt, Crow's teammate and fourth in the point standings coming in, finished third and points leader Scott Dinger was fourth.

Results from the Figure-8 Main were unavailable at press time.

John Kirby captured the oval B Main, allowing him to move up to the A Main. He was joined by Kevin Persey, Hernandez and

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Keith Spangler (81) of Northridge leads the pack en route to victory in the trophy dash for Southwest Tour cars Saturday at Saugus Speedway. Trailing him is Bill Sedgwick (75), who took second.